

see that programs aimed at combating cardiovascular disease, or CVD, as well as medical research for prevention and treatment of stroke and heart attacks, are supported appropriately at the federal level.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers and their public health implications are shocking. CVD is the nation's number one killer. A staggering 85.6 million people—1 in 3 American adults—suffer from heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular diseases. An American dies from cardiovascular disease every 40 seconds. It is estimated that by 2030, about 44% percent of all adult Americans will be affected by heart disease—with direct and indirect costs from CVD estimated to reach almost \$1 trillion by 2030.

Further, as both the Association and the CDC point out, heart disease is sometimes thought of as a “man’s disease.” Yet, heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, claiming the lives of 398,035 women per year. According to the Heart Association, nearly half of all women are not aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death for women.

That’s worth repeating, Mr. Speaker. Every minute, one woman dies as a result of CVD or a stroke.

The American Heart Association is leading the charge in raising awareness of this fact through coordinated campaigns, like National Wear Red Day and Go Red For Women.

One organization working in my Congressional district is the Meridian Health Foundation’s “Women’s Heart Fund.” Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation—focused on promoting heart health in Monmouth and Ocean County—has funded nursing scholarships, equipment for management of the most severe heart attacks and vascular screenings, and boosted funding for the Pediatric Cardiology Program at the K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital and the CardioVascular Intensive Care Unit at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center, which opened last year.

While American Heart Month comes to a close tomorrow, it’s important we continue these efforts year round. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who are members of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition and urge those who have not yet joined to do so. Help us continue and grow the critical Coalition-Association partnership that is working to improve our constituents’ health, families, and future.

#### HONORING THOR CONSTRUCTION’S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founding of Thor Construction, one of the largest minority-owned construction companies in Minnesota, and an industry leader for contracting projects nationwide.

Founded with the objective of becoming the number one minority-owned company in the country, Thor Construction is well on its way to achieving that goal. Since 1980, Thor has led many of Minnesota’s largest construction

projects. Its impressive track record includes work on Target Field, the Minneapolis Central Library, the TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Convention Center, and the new Minnesota Vikings football stadium. Thor Construction shows no signs of tiring in its mission to provide top-notch construction work that benefits both workers of color and communities at large.

Richard Copeland, the founder and chairman of Thor, is proud that his company “generates new investments and exponential returns to the communities [they] serve.” This guiding principle of social service in conjunction with high-quality development has led to projects in countless communities around Minnesota, as well as in at least six other states and five foreign countries. These industry leaders have jumped at every opportunity to expand their mission, moving well above and beyond humble Midwestern beginnings to leave a mark on the world around them.

Thor Construction has received accolades from the City of Minneapolis, Black Enterprise, the US Green Building Council, and numerous other groups for their innovative approach to constructing with purpose. By creating good-paying, union jobs for thousands of underserved individuals, Thor Construction continues to ensure that building projects also entail community development.

I am proud to represent the congressional district that Thor Construction calls home, and I eagerly await the day that I can congratulate them for achieving their goal of becoming the number one minority owned company in the United States.

#### REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

#### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children killed in Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992. Marking the anniversary of such a tragedy is difficult, but it is critical that we remember and honor the precious lives lost.

Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States, and it is appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as our Azerbaijani friends mark the 23rd anniversary of the event.

Despite such hardships, Azerbaijan has been a great support to U.S. efforts in the War on Terror, and the country has made great strides over its short history as an independent nation to promote economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the town and people of Khojaly who died on those fateful days and in offering our deepest condolences to Azerbaijan on this tragic anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARME- NIANS IN SUMGAIT

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-seventh anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. As they know well, Azerbaijani rioters started a murderous rampage in response to peaceful protests on February 27, 1988, that forever changed Armenia. During those three days, scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind.

As we recognize this tragedy, we should also take this time to commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh on being the first to demand their right to freedom and self-governance from the Soviet Union. Although a small nation, Nagorno Karabakh sparked the democracy movement that ended decades of dictatorial rule in the USSR and eventually led to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Sadly, the Azerbaijani government continues to act as an aggressor today. In November 2014, Azerbaijani armed forces shot down a Nagorno-Karabakh helicopter participating in a training exercise near the cease-fire line, killing the three crew members on board. This aggression is completely unacceptable and further hurts efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with the proud people of Nagorno Karabakh in recognizing the anniversary of these tragic events. Let today serve as a reminder for each and every one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

#### HONORING THE 2015 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CON- GRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JER- SEY

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation’s military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up

and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—and all are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to

defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

#### ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2015 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

##### AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Gina-Marie Arrabito, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; John P. Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.; Fredrik A. Eriksson, Woodland Park, Passaic Valley Regional H.S.; Joshua J. Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Christian O. Hedengren, Brookside, St. Peters Preparatory; Leland E. Hemgren, Boonton, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Liam R. Sax, Sparta, Pope John XXIII Regional H.S.

##### MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Travis Z. Feather, Pine Brook, Bergen Catholic H.S.; Paul T. Femia, Kinnelon, Valley Forge Military Academy; Maria F. Garcia, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Colleen M. Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Christian A. Marini, Kinnelon, Seton Hall Preparatory; Luke H. Mayer, Morristown, Delbarton School; Christopher J.L. Morgan, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; Kelly A. Smith, Roseland, West Essex H.S.

##### NAVAL ACADEMY

Seth M. Abbott, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Mark G. Brown, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.; James E. Crimmins, Madison, Chaminade H.S., NY; Joshua C. Corbett, Mendham, Gill St. Bernards School; Jacob S. Ferraro, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Aaron J. Hanko, Montville, Naval Academy Preparatory School; Warren J. Lee, East Hanover, Oratory Preparatory School; Jay Oh, Madison, Madison H.S.; Austin J. Tighe, Little Falls, Seton Hall Preparatory; Jacob T. Valente, Wayne, Wayne Valley H.S.

##### MILITARY ACADEMY

Matthew E. Babich, Wayne, Regis H.S. NY, NY; Alexandra R.K. Bruno, Little Falls, Passaic Valley H.S.; Jonathan P. Davis, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Alexander C. Lagasca, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; John M. Lowe, Parsippany, Gill St. Bernards School; Angela E. Martone, Lincoln Park, Trinity Christian School; Richard R. O'Connor, New Vernon, Miami University; Ivan V. Peters, Boonton, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg; James E. Schoch, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Austin J.C. Williams, Verona, Verona H.S.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI DONALD A. WEBER

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rabbi Donald Weber on his 30th Anniversary as Rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah in Marlboro, New Jersey. Rabbi Weber is an outstanding leader of Temple Rodeph Torah and an active member of the community whose contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Under Rabbi Weber's leadership, the Temple Rodeph Torah congregation has grown from 66 families in 1984 to more than 350 today. He also began the TRT Cares program

to provide help to those in the community facing financial hardships, which earned the Fain Award for Social Justice in 2011.

In addition to his efforts within Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber is also an active member of the community. He has served as the Marlboro Township Police Chaplain since 2005, is a founding member and Board Chair of the Marlboro Township Ethics Board and is a life member of the Morganville First Aid Squad. He remains an advocate for hunger issues and personal rights, serving as a member and co-chair of the Jewish Leaders' Council of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and a trustee of Planned Parenthood of Monmouth County, among others.

Prior to becoming the first full-time rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber served as Volunteer Chaplain and Supervisor of the Pediatrics Floor at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York and as Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth David in Commack, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Rabbi Donald Weber and recognizing him for his dedication to community outreach and social action.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

#### TEXANS KNOW BARBECUE

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Killen's Barbecue, a Pearland, TX legendary institution, for being named in the top 10 in GQ Magazine's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

All due respect to other states, Texans know barbecue better than anyone! Don't let the never-ending line to get in stop you from tasting a little bit of heaven. It's well worth the wait. Chef Ronnie Killen is a true master and his culinary skills are keeping true Texas barbecue alive.

I commend Chef Killen for sharing his true Texas Barbecue with the great folks of TX-22. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Killen's Barbecue for being named one of GQ's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."